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*A History of Bethlehem Baptist Church  
Poole Road, Route 1  
Knightdale, North Carolina*



*One Hundreth Anniversary*  
*1883 - 1983*



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## D E D I C A T I O N

We dedicate this History of Bethlehem Baptist Church to "the stars" (church members) of the past, present and future. Some of these "stars" are listed in this history, but a complete list will be found in the Book above.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Centennial Committee appreciates all the church members and others who contributed pictures and suggestions to make this history possible. Our church records were missing up to 1954. A church letter was sent each year by our church clerk to the Raleigh Baptist Association. These Raleigh Baptist Association minutes from 1883 to 1983 can be found at the Raleigh Baptist Association office on New Bern Avenue, North Carolina State Library in Raleigh and Southeastern Baptist Seminary Library at Wake Forest, NC. We are also indebted to the Baptist Historical Collection at Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, NC.

A special recognition to Mrs. Shelby R. Strother, our church secretary, who spent many hours typing and more hours retyping the mistakes made by the writer.

We acknowledge the help of our pastor, Rev. Robert R. Boone, Jr.

The Committee is also grateful to Mr. Ken Taylor, a church member and Graphic Arts Instructor at Garner Senior High School, and his students for publishing this booklet.

We humbly present this labor of love  
and its many mistakes,

THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Elaine Hopkins, Chairperson  
Joe Broadwell  
Lela Adams  
Joe Knott  
Mildred Woodard  
Placid Knott  
L. C. Liles, Jr., Writer



## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Robert R. Boone, Jr.....Pastor  
Mr. Bill Sherrill.....Minister of Youth and Outreach  
Mrs. Margaret Lassiter.....Minister of Music  
Mrs. Shelby R. Strother.....Secretary/Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Carolyn Fleming.....Organist  
Mr. Jeffrey Ferrell.....Pianist  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Gay.....Custodians

## REFERENCES

1. Raleigh Baptist Association minutes from 1883 to 1983
2. North Carolina State Library
3. Baptist Historical Collection at Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, North Carolina
4. Southeastern Seminary Library, Wake Forest, North Carolina
5. A Light On A Hill - History of Samaria Baptist Church, Poole Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1878-1978
6. Oaky Grove Methodist Episcopal Church - Picture and article in the Gold Leaf Farmer
7. Highlights In The History Of Hephzibah Baptist Church
8. History Of Knightdale Baptist Church - "75th Anniversary Year"
9. The Biblical Recorder, Cary, North Carolina
10. The News and Observer, Raleigh, North Carolina
11. The Raleigh Times, Raleigh, North Carolina
12. Bethlehem Baptist Church Board of Deacon Minutes from 1954
13. The Star, Publication of Bethlehem Baptist Church
14. History Of The Raleigh Baptist Association, by William Richard Eaton, 1805-1955
15. Bethlehem Baptist Church bulletins and directories
16. Register of Deeds' Office, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina
17. Eagle Rock Sunday School Record Book from 1875-1880





C E N T E N N I A L      W E E K      P R O G R A M

SCHEDULE OF REVIVAL SPEAKERS

Sunday, October 2, 11:00 A. M.	Dr. Al Hood, Medical Missionary to Thailand
Sunday, October 2, 7:30 P. M.	Rev. L. H. Hollingsworth Emorywood Baptist Church High Point, North Carolina Our pastor in 1942
Monday, October 3, 7:30 P. M.	Rev. Malbert Smith Greystone Baptist Church Durham, North Carolina Our pastor in 1951-52
Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 P. M.	Dr. William Marler Calvary Baptist Church Greenville, South Carolina Our pastor in 1973-77
Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 P. M.	Rev. Spurgeon Hays Morningside Baptist Church Atlanta, Georgia Our pastor in 1967-70
Thursday, October 6, 7:30 P. M.	Rev. Capt. Max Eller, Chaplain Naval Training Center Orlando, Florida Our pastor in 1953-55
Friday, October 7, 7:30 P. M.	Rev. Oren Bradley, Retired Surry Baptist Association Mt. Airy, North Carolina Our pastor in 1956-59
HOMECOMING DAY, Sunday, October 9, 11:00 A. M.	Rev. W. T. Mills Highland Baptist Church Hickory, North Carolina Brother Mills' father was our pastor in 1916-1919.



# HISTORY OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1883 - 1983

## INTRODUCTION

The Centennial Committee of Bethlehem Baptist Church presents the history of our church in two parts. The first part - Historical Sketch of the First 100 Years - is based on statistical information found in the second part. The second part is a Statistical History of our Church. (Appendices)

All original church records are lost up to 1954. However, our church clerk sent to the Raleigh Baptist Association a "Church Letter" each year with data about our church. This data was summarized into ten decades, along with the church leadership and messengers who attended the association meetings to make up the first ten appendices. All sources of information for this history since 1954 have come from the Raleigh Baptist Association Annuals (Minutes), Deacon Board Minutes, Church Bulletins, Church Directories, and The Star, a publication of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Let's look briefly at our community before 1883. The land in our area was first owned by John Carteret (Earl of Granville), one of the lord proprietors. He made land grants from the 1740's to the 1760's to David, James and Malachi Hinton. These grants constituted an area of about a five mile radius of Bethlehem Church. The land in our area was cleared by slaves that belonged to the Hinton Families. Early Wills and the Settlement of Estates from 1760's to 1900 listed these crops and livestock found on the farms. Crops grown were flax, wheat, oats, rye, corn, vegetable crops and cotton. Livestock found on the farm were sheep, cattle, poultry, geese and swine. Cotton was the main cash crop in our community until the 1930's when tobacco became king.

There was very little religion in our area for the first 100 years, (1760-1840). The coldness and slow growth in religion is best described by W. R. Eaton in his History of the Raleigh Baptist Association (1805-1955) (Davis Printing Co., Zebulon, NC).

"Historians have suggested several possible causes for that condition. A severe lack of qualified ministers hampered the work. The conflict between Arminianism and Calvinism seems to have contributed to the general coldness in religion. Events in Kentucky in 1800 were to have bearing on the religious life in North Carolina a few years later, for in that year a spirit of revival began to be manifested in that state. From there it spread, sweeping into Tennessee, then into North Carolina, and finally across the entire south. In its wake were thousands of new converts. Churches multiplied in number. New associations came into being. Raleigh Association was formed in 1805."

The first church organized in our area was Hephzibah Baptist Church which was organized in 1809. Slaves of the Hinton Families and Governor David Stone's widow were members at Hephzibah. (Hephzibah church is located about five miles east of Bethlehem.) The Smith and Wilder Families were on the Hephzibah Church roll from this area until Bethlehem Baptist Church was organized in 1883.

The second church organized in our area was the Oaky Grove Methodist-Episcopal Church which was organized in 1837. This church, not in use, is located three miles southeast of Bethlehem. The church membership moved into Knightdale United Methodist Church when it was organized on the fifth Sunday in July, 1917. Some family names in our area who were on the Oaky Grove register in 1882 were Wall, Lassiter, Faison, Hodges, Doub, Debnam and Woodard.

The third church organized in our area, before Bethlehem was organized in 1883, was Samaria Baptist Church which was organized in 1878. This church is located five miles west of Bethlehem on The Poole Road. Some family names in our community who were on the Samaria church roll were Hodge, Liles, Pool, Wiggs and Jordon.



After the Civil War, the Hinton Families, who owned most of the land in the Bethlehem Community, began to sell off parcels of land to these families: Smith, House, Ferrell, Wilder, Poole, Jordon, Blinson, Wiggs, Harris, Sater, Kennedy, Straughan and Debnam. These families organized a Sunday School (called Sabbath Schools until around 1900) and met, according to tradition, in an old log school house, which is 200 yards southeast of Eunice House Homeplace, until 1884 when they moved to present location. We know our Sunday School was organized prior to 1883 because they had 78 members enrolled before church was organized in 1883 with only 8 members.



THE ABOVE HOME IS THE ORIGINAL BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH. IT WAS AN OLD LOG SCHOOL HOUSE BEFORE IT WAS REMODELED. WE USED THIS PLACE FOR WORSHIP FROM 1883 UNTIL LARKIN SMITH DEEDED ONE ACRE OF LAND, AT OUR PRESENT LOCATION, AND CHURCH WAS BUILT IN 1884. (See Appendix 12). IT IS LOCATED 200 YARDS EAST OF THE EUNICE HOUSE HOME-PLACE ON ROAD 2511 ONE MILD NORTH OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH.



# HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS

## CHAPTER I --- OUR BEGINNING

### First Decade - 1883-1893

Let's look at the First Decade at our beginning from information obtained from Raleigh Baptist Association minutes. (See Appendix 1)

Tradition tells us that Bethlehem Baptist Church was organized in 1883. It was admitted to the Raleigh Baptist Association when it met at Salem Baptist Church near Apex, NC on October 23, 24, 25, 26, 1883. We quote from the minutes:

"Bethlehem petitioned for membership. The petition was referred to Elders J. C. Marcom, C. E. Taylor and A. D. Cohen. (They reported back later) The committee appointed to examine into the organization of Bethlehem Baptist Church applying for admission into this body have ascertained that they have adopted the Articles of Faith adopted by the Baptist Churches in North Carolina. The committee would therefore recommend that Bethlehem be received into this body. Elders J. C. Marcom, C. E. Taylor and A. D. Cohen, Committee. The moderator extended the right hand of fellowship to the Delegate Charles H. Smith."

The delegate also pledged \$5.00 to the Matthew Yates Missionary Fund.

Our church first met, according to tradition, in an old log school house located 200 yards southeast of the Eunice House Homeplace, one mile north of present location, off State Road 2511. The church met here in 1883.

In 1884, we built our first church on the present site when Larkin Smith, father of Charles Hinton Smith, deeded one acre of land to Bethelhem Baptist Church Trustees. This Deed was made prior to May 1, 1884. (See Appendix 12)

If you will study Appendix 1, you will find our church membership went from 8 to 64. However, our Sunday School enrollment dropped from 78 to 48 during this ten-year period. Total baptisms and other additions were 85. Our total gifts to missions was \$62.00. Total gifts to the church for this decade was \$1,052.00; however, most of this was spent on building the new church. The church went in debt in 1885 and borrowed \$209.30.

(They owed two building supply companies in Raleigh.) (See Appendix 11 for details of this indenture.)

If you look at the church leadership during this period, you could probably say these family names were on the Charter of eight that constituted our church: Smith, Wiggs, Blinson, Sater, Montague, Wilder, Ferrell & Harris.

We find these events of interest in the Raleigh Baptist Association minutes: In 1884, "Bethlehem only needs seats and plastered walls to have its house of worship complete. Bethlehem also asked for aid. A collection was suggested for Bethlehem". In 1892, "Several churches are embarrassed by indebtedness pressing upon them contracted by building their houses of worship. These are Wilson Mills, Princeton, Four Oaks, Bethlehem and Pine Level."

Our first pastor was Rev. Alvin Betts, a graduate of Wake Forest College. He preached once each month for a salary of \$50.00 per annum.



The picture above is Mr. Charles Hinton Smith. He was our first delegate to Raleigh Baptist Association in 1883. His father, Mr. Larkin Smith, donated one acre of land and our first church was built on this land in 1884.



Photograph of our first church, at present location, was completed in 1884. This picture was made in the early 1900's.  
(Photo courtesy of Mrs. R. L. Knott)

## CHAPTER II --- OUR STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

### Second Decade - 1893-1903

This was the most difficult period in our church's history. A severe economic depression called "The Cleveland Panic Period" resulted in the sale of our church property. On the 20th of January, 1896, at 12 o'clock noon, our church property was sold at the Wake County Courthouse. (See Appendix 14) It was sold for \$82.00 to George F. Kennedy and wife, Ada A. Kennedy (Mr. Kennedy was our Sunday School Superintendent). On the same day, our Sunday School Superintendent and his wife, Ada, sold the church back to the trustees of the church for \$100.00. (See Appendix 15) The only records we have about the church's history during this period is found in the Raleigh Baptist Association minutes. (Examine Appendix 2 for details) We find the church membership and Sunday School enrollment average was 60 members each year with an average attendance of only 39 each Sunday. Our total receipts during this period was only approximately \$70.00 per annum. We paid our preacher \$50.00 each year and preaching was held the second Sunday in each month. We organized a Woman's Missionary Society during this period and they contributed \$2.64 to Foreign Missions. We find in the Raleigh Baptist Association minutes for 1893: "Funds raised for the indebtedness of Princeton, Four Oaks, Bethlehem and Wilson Mills Churches. Total raised by the Association was \$252.69. This was paid to the four churches. Paid to A. J. Montague \$25.00 for Bethlehem".



Third Decade - 1903-1913

During this third decade in our church's history, our church and Sunday School enrollment almost doubled in size - from 60 to 116. (See Appendix 3) Our total receipts jumped from \$70.00 each year to approximately \$150.00 each year. We doubled the salary of our pastor from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per annum. Our gifts to missions went from \$7.00 each year to \$56.00. In 1905, our church value was estimated at \$300.00 and our seating capacity was 200. In the Raleigh Baptist Association minutes of 1912, our church value was estimated at \$500.00. Our pastor in 1912 was Rev. L. L. Carpenter who later became editor of the Biblical Recorder. The only pastor to die while serving as pastor at Bethlehem was Rev. W. Y. Chappell. The Raleigh Baptist Association minutes reported his death as follows: "Rev. W. Y. Chappell was born in Granville County March 7, 1855. He moved to Wake County in 1874. Married Mollie King in 1878. He died September 8, 1904. Left wife and four children. Ordained in 1894. Served several churches in Wake and Granville Counties. Baptized about 300 during his ministry. Last year baptized 50. His churches will undertake to erect a suitable monument in his memory".

## CHAPTER IV --- PROGRESS IS SLOW

### Fourth Decade - 1913-1923

We made very little progress during the fourth decade in our church's history. If you look at statistical information found in the Raleigh Baptist Association minutes, (See Appendix 4) it shows that our Sunday School and church enrollment averaged about 100. Total gifts each year was approximately \$300.00 except in 1920 the total receipts was \$1,700. This was due to the high prices paid for tobacco in the fall of 1919 and the winter of 1920. (The price average was about \$1.00 per pound.) However, in the fall of 1920, the price of tobacco dropped to about 25¢ per pound. If we look at the Raleigh Baptist Association minutes for this period (1913-1923), we find Bethlehem contributing to the 75 Million Campaign. This was before the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program was founded. Our apportionment for the period 1918-1924 was \$2,400. We contributed only \$282.00, leaving a balance of \$2,118.00. The value of our church was estimated at \$1,000.00 in 1916 and in 1920, our church value was estimated at \$2,500.00. Our pastor's salary went from \$150.00 to \$250.00 per annum during this period, and preaching was held once each month.

## CHAPTER V --- A PERIOD OF STEADY GROWTH

### Fifth Decade - 1923-1933

The 1920's marked the fifth decade in our church's history. This was a period of economic stability and steady growth. (See Appendix 5) We see that our church membership went from 141 in 1923 to 232 in 1929. Four rooms were reported added during this period. We had weekly prayer meetings and active Missionary and Training Unions (WMU and BYPU). There were 28 baptized in 1932. This was the largest number baptized by any church in the Association that year. In the latter part of this period, we find the beginning of a world-wide depression. There were no Association minutes published in 1931 and total gifts in 1932 at Bethlehem was only \$377.00. If we look back for several decades at the longevity services of our church leadership, we come up with these interesting facts. Rev. R. E. Atkins served as Pastor from 1922-1937 (this has been the longest pastorate in our church's history). R. L. Knott served as church clerk from 1919-1938. D. B. Harrison served as treasurer from 1922-1933. E. L. House served as Sunday School Superintendent from 1918-1930.

## CHAPTER VI --- OUR GROWTH WAS GRADUAL

### Sixth Decade - 1933-1943

The depression that began in 1930 continued until the beginning of World War II. Our church's growth was gradual during this period (See Appendix 6). Our church membership climbed from 201 to 270. There were 151 baptisms and additions to our church roll. Sunday School enrollment went from 162 to 201. Total receipts jumped from \$390.00 in 1933 to \$1,131.00 in 1942. Our gifts to missions during this ten-year period went from \$48.00 per annum to \$288.00. Our church property was valued at \$4,000.00 during the 1930's but in 1942, it was valued at \$8,000.00. (We carried only \$3,000.00 in fire insurance.) Rev. R. E. Atkins ends his long pastorate with us in 1937. Rev. Douglas Branch became our pastor in 1937 and we started having services twice each month. (Dr. Branch later became General Secretary of the Baptist State Convention. He died in a car accident in the 1960's while serving in that capacity.) Rev. L. H. Hollingsworth served as our last pastor in this decade. (He later served as President of the Baptist State Convention.) Our pastor's salary went from \$250.00 per annum to about \$400.00 per annum during this period. In 1939, the 134th Annual Session of the Raleigh Baptist Association met with us for the first time in our church's history. They met with us on October 25 and 26. We find this event of interest in the minutes. "Bro. William Poole conducted the evening devotional, reading 23 verses of the 12th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, with appropriate remarks upon them".

## CHAPTER VII --- FROM SLOW TO RAPID GROWTH

### Seventh Decade - 1943-1953

Our slow growth in the 1930's became rapid in the 1940's. The severe economic depression that had been with us for the past ten years was over. We see our church begin to make gains in every direction (See Appendix 7). Our church membership went from 236 to 319. Sunday School enrollment jumped from 236 to 322. Our gifts to missions went from \$300.00 in 1943 to over \$1,000.00 in 1952. Baptisms and additions to the church were 245. From the Raleigh Baptist Association minutes, we find these highlights: In 1943 our church property was valued at \$8,500.00. In 1949, new additions to church valued at \$17,000.00. New pastorium was valued at \$15,000.00. Note Burning Service held January 30, 1950. The last year of this decade finds the value of our church building at \$55,000.00. Our pastor's home was valued at \$15,000.00. Proctor Smith, a member of our church, was ordained a Baptist minister. Our pastor's salary was \$600.00 in 1943; \$1,500.00 in 1948. Preaching was held twice each month until Malbert Smith became our first full-time pastor in 1952. Our pastor's salary was \$3,200.00 in 1952.



## CHAPTER VIII --- WE CONTINUE TO MAKE GAINS

### Eighth Decade - 1953-1963

Our church continued to make gains in the 1950's (See Appendix 8). We see our church membership going from 430 to 524. Our Sunay School enrollment went from 296 to 422. Total baptisms and additions were 237. Our total gifts went from \$15,000.00 in 1955 to \$24,000.00 in 1962. Gifts to missions almost tripled during this decade; going from \$800.00 to \$2,100.00. Our pastor's salary increased from \$3,200.00 in 1953 to \$5,500.00 in 1962.\* Our church property values continued to climb during this period. In 1955 we spent \$10,000.00 on renovation of the auditorium and we dedicated our stained glass windows and baptistry painting. That same year, we gave the old church pews to Wilders Grove Baptist Church (name changed to Hillcrest). The pews were received by the pastor, Rev. Proctor Smith. In 1957 we started a building fund for new Sunday School classrooms. In 1958, our church buildings were valued at \$75,000.00 and our pastorium was valued at \$18,000.00. Our building fund reached \$10,000.00 in 1961 so a building committee was appointed. They were Mrs. Placid Knott, Mrs. H. R. Callahan, Steve Murick, Joe Knott, Lincoln Hodge, Wallace Clark and R. B. Hopkins. Some revival speakers during this decade were Rev. Charles McMillan, Rev. Herbert Baucom, Rev. Aubrey Patterson, and Rev. B. Lester Huff.

\*Information for this decade obtained from Raleigh Baptist Association minutes, minutes from deacon board meetings from 1954 to 1963, church bulletins and directories, and The Star, a publication of Bethlehem Baptist Church.



This is a photograph of our church before the tragic fire on July 30, 1976.

## CHAPTER IX --- OUR GROWTH IS STEADY

### Ninth Decade - 1963-1973

The ninth decade in our church's history was a period of steady growth. (See Appendix 9). Our church membership increased from 556 in 1963 to 648 in 1972. Total church receipts went up each year about \$1,000.00 - from \$31,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Total gifts to missions during this ten year period was \$2,500.00. The only sour note in this ninth decade was a decline in our Sunday School enrollment from 460 to 365. Our church property values went up from \$127,000.00 in 1963 to \$145,000.00 in 1972. (church indebtedness was \$21,000.00 in 1972). Some of the events found in the church bulletins, church directories, minutes of the Deacon Board, and The Star, a weekly publication, during this period are listed below.

A car was purchased for our pastor, Rev. Allan Laymon, in 1964. "Hood Appreciation Day" was held January 2, 1966. Rev. J. Spurgeon Hayes held a "Sprinkle Service" for Mr. Henry Carpenter in his home in 1968 (he was confined to his bed). Some youth activities during this period were: Youth retreat at Topsail Beach in 1970. "Good News", a folk musical, was given on radio and presented nine times in North and South Carolina churches. Our Youth Choir performed at Ebenezer Baptist Church near Florence, SC, and Ephesus Baptist Church in Cary, NC. The church purchased an old school bus for \$700.00 in 1972. The Youth Choir presented "Now Hear It Again" at five western North Carolina churches. Revival and Homecoming speakers during this period were: Rev. Stanley Nelson, Rev. Wilson Padgett, Rev. Harold Mitchell, Rev. Morris Cooper, Rev. Allan Laymon, Rev. Morris L. Jackson, Rev. Oren Bradley, Rev. Alfred Staley and Rev. Roy Taylor.

This last decade has been the most progressive in our centennial history. The details of our statistical growth can be found in Appendix 10. You will find that our church membership is now over 700. We have about 400 enrolled in Sunday School. We have an active WMU and an outstanding music program. We are giving over \$10,000.00 each year to missions. Baptisms and additions to our church have numbered around 275 during this decade. Total receipts have jumped from \$80,000.00 to over \$130,000.00. During this ten year period, our total church property values have gone from \$200,000.00 to over \$900,000.00.

Some important events during this period are described below (they were obtained from Deacon Board minutes, church bulletins, yearbooks, and The Star).

Our Keen-Age Club was organized April 1, 1974 with Mrs. Cora Lee Stott as president. The church sold old pastorium and built a new one in 1975. Church bus was purchased for about \$20,000.00 on May 2, 1976. Madonna Jones presented a painting, "Resurrection of Christ", to the church.

Lightning strikes our church at seven o'clock P.M., on July 30, 1976. It destroyed our sanctuary, music department, church offices, and damaged the educational building. Not only did our church members respond to this tragedy, but the response was felt throughout our area. Contributions poured in from individuals, churches and other organizations. Our church members regrouped and used the basement of the educational building for the sanctuary. Committees were elected to make plans toward building a new sanctuary and other additions and renovations to educational building. (See Appendix 16 for details). Insurance settlement was agreed upon at \$98,000.00. The church sold \$350,000.00 in bonds to be repaid on a weekly basis over a period of 15 years -- first year \$539.00 per week, 2nd year \$620.00 per week, 3rd year \$700.00, 4th year \$788.00 and 5th through 15th year \$861.00 per week. (Note, during the past six years the church has accumulated and on savings sufficient monies to probably pay off our indebtness in four more years.) Sparrow Construction Company was awarded the contract for the new building at \$433,332.00. It was estimated that the total cost for building and furnishings at \$488,900.00.

Dr. Bill Marler resigns as pastor and Rev. William Poole became our interim pastor. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on Homecoming Day, October 16, 1977. Dr. L. H. Hollingsworth, former pastor, was the speaker. His son-in-law, Former Governor James Holshouser, who married Pat, and her twin sister, Nancy, were also present for these ceremonies. Rev. Robert R. Boone became our pastor on June 15, 1978. That fall, our Homecoming offering exceeded \$25,000.00 and our pastor conducted our revival. After two years without a sanctuary, our people will "enter again into the house of the Lord" on December 10, 1978. A Day of Dedication was held on May 20, 1979. Our pastor stated, "We set this building apart for the proclamation of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. We all proclaim a new beginning and a new commitment to our Lord that we may reach our community for Jesus, grow a strong church and expand the kingdom of God". (See appendix 16 for details of this dedication, recognitions and donors).

Raleigh Baptist Association met at our church on October 26, 1979. The Association was 175 years old in 1980 and two of our members, Mrs. Virginia Long and Mrs. Mildred Woodard participated in the Anniversary Pageant, dressed in styles of clothes of that time.

The most noticeable project in 1981 was the paving of our parking lot for about \$15,000.00. Individual contributions, church sponsored golf tournaments, and State Fair booth sales by the Christian Friends Sunday School Class paid off this paving debt in 1982.

Our 1982-83 church directory was published for the first time in color. We should be able to better recognize each other and aid in building our fellowship.

After several years of planning, the Cemetery Committee purchased, landscaped and divided about one-half acre of land into lots on the west side of our cemetery.

We held our first Christmas Lovefeast with lighted candles on December 22, 1982. This is one of the most beautiful services of the Moravian Church and has been adopted for use by christians of many other denominations.

Some important youth activities during this period were: two youth revivals, youth choirs visited Florida, Canada and Liberty, S.C., and youth retreats held at Lake Sagamore and Long Beach.

Homecoming and Revival speakers during this decade were: Rev. L.M. Woolweaver, Rev. Sonny Blackwood, Rev. J. Spurgeon Hayes, Rev. Oren Bradley, Rev. Robert R. Boone, Jr., Rev. W. C. Barham and Rev. Al Laymon.



A P P E N D I C E S





# APPENDIX 1

## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1883 to 1893

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	8	53	56	56	56	57	51	51	55	64
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	0*	46	8	6	0	6	0	6	5	8
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	78	82***	77	81	**	50	39	51	40	48
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 25	\$367	\$ 86	\$261	\$ **	\$ 73	\$ 73	\$ 55	\$ 57	\$ 55
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$ **	\$ 12	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ **	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 5	\$ 7	\$ 2

\*Sunday School was organized before church was contituted.

\*\*None reported in Raleigh Baptist Association Minutes.

\*\*\*This was the year the church was built.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Pastors during this 10-year period were:

Rev. Alvin Betts, 1883-1884  
Rev. J. W. Sledge, 1885  
Rev. Duncan McLeod, 1886  
Rev. J. R. Pace, 1887-1888

Rev. O. L. Stringfield, 1889  
Rev. W. M. Sorrell, 1890-1891  
Rev. J. L. Cottingham, 1892

The Sunday School Superintendents during this 10-year period were:

W. A. Sater  
James M. Ferrell  
James Wilder

Other Officers:

W. A. Sater, Church Clerk  
E. P. Wiggs, Collector for Home Missions  
Mattie Smith, Collector for Home Missions  
Miss Delia Bell, Home Missions Collector (Shotwell)  
A. J. Montague, Treasurer  
E. P. Wiggs, J. R. Blinson, W. A. Sater, Trustees

Messengers to the Raleigh Baptist Association:

Charles H. Smith	E. P. Wiggs	A. J. Montague
James Blinson	J. M. Ferrell	
Larkin Smith	J. M. Wilder	
W. A. Sater	P. Y. Harris	

APPENDIX 2  
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
1893 to 1903

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	56	69	59	*	78	80	*	69	63	63
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	7	34	*	*	19	7	*	0	3	3
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	46	60	58	84	58	66	*	43	41	53
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ *	\$ 62	\$ 62	\$ 60	\$ 70	\$ 82	\$ 58	\$ 61	\$170	\$ 59
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 5	\$ 13	\$ 13	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ 10	\$ 7

\*None reported in Raleigh Baptist Association Minutes.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Pastors during this 10-year period were:

Rev. J. J. Hutchinson, 1893-1895

None reported in 1896

Rev. G. W. Coppedge, 1897-1899

Rev. G. W. May, 1900

Rev. W. Y. Chappell, 1901-1902

The Sunday School Superintendents during this 10-year period were:

J. M. Ferrell

S. W. Pool

G. F. Kennedy

J. H. Liles

J. M. Wilder

Other Officers:

C. H. Smith )

J. M. Wilder )

W. E. Straughan )

Church Clerks

James M. Ferrell )

Alexander Montague )

William Straughan )

Trustees

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association:

C. H. Smith

J. M. Ferrell

D. B. Harrison

J. F. Spence

W. M. Straughan

N. G. House

J. E. Debnam

APPENDIX 3  
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1903 to 1913

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	68	64	64	62	62	62	81	76	100	112
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	9	10	11	5	1	16	23	4	19	19
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	45	58	50	48	40	94	94	103	123	115
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 55	\$ 57	\$ 60	\$111	\$ 69	\$ 97	\$123	\$223	\$258	\$166
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 13	\$ 15	\$ 23	\$ 25	\$ 26	\$ 56

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS TEN-YEAR PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOC.

The Pastors during this period were:

Rev. W. Y. Chappell, 1904	Rev. C. H. Norris, 1908-1909
Rev. D. D. Edwards, 1905	No pastor reported for 1910
Rev. J. H. Hutchison, 1906	Rev. C. R. Sorrell, 1911
Rev. J. S. Hagwood, 1907	Rev. L. L. Carpenter, 1912

The Sunday School Superintendents during this period were:

J. H. Liles	J. M. Knott
S. A. Andrews	G. A. Andrews
D. B. Harrison	H. M. Lynch

Other Officers:

Church Clerks: W. E. Straughan, A. B. Harrison  
Sunday School Secretaries: E. P. Straughan, A. B. Harrison  
Orphanage Leader: N. I. Hodge, E. B. Harrison



APPENDIX 4  
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1913 to 1923

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	116	118	130	113	97	100	101	104	119	127
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	4	2	14	11	0	4	13	9	10	12
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	104	87	133	113	133	102	95	106	135	115
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$627	\$230	\$224	\$214	\$219	\$490	\$365	\$1,700	\$313	\$328
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$ 21	\$ 27	\$ 59	\$ 21	\$ *	\$180	\$ *	\$316**	\$ 64**	\$158*

\*None reported in Raleigh Baptist Association Minutes.

\*\*Most of these funds given to \$75-Million Campaign for Foreign Missions.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Pastors during this 10-year period were:

Rev. E. M. Lassiter, 1913  
Rev. H. G. Bryant, 1914-1915  
Rev. G. T. Mills, 1916-1919

Rev. B. G. Early, 1920-1921  
None reported in 1922

The Sunday School Superintendents were:

E. B. Harrison  
G. A. Andrews  
E. L. House

Other Officers:

Church Clerks: E. B. Harrison, R. L. Knott  
Church Treasurer: E. B. Harrison  
Sunday School Clerks: B. L. Wall, Maylan Turner, D. G. Knott  
B.Y.P.U. Leaders: Mrs. H.H. Wilder, Miss Mozelle Pool, Mrs. E. B. Harrison

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association:

Ezra House	D. B. Harrison	J. A. Woodard
N. T. Hodge	W. E. Chappell	H. H. Wilder
R. A. Chappell	Lee Wilder	R. L. Knott

APPENDIX 5  
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1923 to 1933

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	141	172	202	150	203	214	232	187	*	222
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	13	40	40	13	15	14	19	0	*	31
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	139	156	147	146	146	169	163	157	*	180
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$643	\$657	\$840	\$577	\$1,135	\$566	\$528	\$407	\$ *	\$377
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$218	\$100**	\$ *	\$100***	\$ *	\$114	\$110	\$120	\$ *	\$ 14

\*No Raleigh Baptist Association minutes printed in 1931.

\*None Reported

\*\*Given to \$75-Million Campaign for Foreign Missions.

\*\*\*The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program had its beginning.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP : DURING THIS PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Pastors during this 10-year period were:

Rev. R. E. Atkins (only pastor during this period)

The Sunday School Superintendents during this 10-year period were:

E. L. House  
N. A. Knott

Other Officers:

Church Clerk: R. L. Knott  
Treasurer: D. B. Harrison  
Sunday School Secretary: D. G. Knott  
B.Y.P.U. Presidents: Emmett Hodge, Neppie Styles

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association were:

N. I. Hodge	Placid Bailey	Mrs. Sam Wilder
E. L. House	Virginia Hodge	H. H. Wilder
S. C. Woodall	D. G. Knott	D. B. Harrison
J. A. Montague	Mrs. R. E. Hicks	Rebecca Hodge
A. B. Harrison	Paul Hicks	Mrs. D. G. Knott
A. C. Sparks	Mrs. E. L. House	N. A. Knott
R. L. Knott	Mrs. J. A. Woodard	Mildred Woodard
R.E. Atkins	Sam Wilder	

APPENDIX 6  
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
1933 to 1943

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	201	205	190	205	198	200	243	244	239	270
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	12	8	2	18	0	23	17	9	24	38
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	162	183	166	189	173	173	173	163	165	201
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$390	\$320	\$463	\$395	\$723	\$637	\$694	\$1,435	\$1,226	\$1,131
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$ 48	\$ 70	\$ 52	\$127	\$ *	\$266	\$135	\$135	\$200	\$ 288

\*None reported in Raleigh Baptist Association Minutes.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Pastors during this 10-year period were:

Rev. R. E. Atkins, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936  
Rev. D. M. Branch, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941  
Rev. L. H. Hollingsworth 1942

The Sunday School Superintendents during this 10-year period were:

N. A. Knott  
Lincoln Hodge

Other Officers:

Church Clerks: R. L. Knott and A. H. Kirk  
Church Treasurers: D. B. Harrison, E. L. House, J. O. Broadwell, P. G. Woodard  
WMU President: Mrs. James Wilder  
B.Y.P.U. and B.T.U. organizations were active but only one leader - Edley Wilder

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association during this 10-year period were:

Rebecca Hodge	J. O. Broadwell	Mrs. E. A. Poythress
Mrs. D. G. Knott	Baxter Durham	Mrs. A. H. Kirk
N. A. Knott	L. H. Hollingsworth	Mrs. Mattie Hicks
Mrs. R. E. Hicks	E. L. House	D. H. Adams
Mrs. Thomas House	Jimmie Wilder	
Lincoln Hodge	Mrs. David Ferrell	
Mildred Woodard	Randall Woodard	
Mrs. J. A. Woodard	W. A. Taylor	
Mrs. R. L. Knott	A. H. Kirk	

Deaths reported from Bethlehem to Raleigh Baptist Association:

E. L. House (in 1939 minutes)  
Mrs. P. E. Bailey, A. R. Hodge, Mrs. A. J. Montague, W. E. Skipper (in 1940)  
H. H. Wilder, Mrs. Sallie Medlin (in 1942 minutes)

# APPENDIX 7

## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1943 to 1953

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	287	300	305	323	321	356	385	404	435	415
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	26	17	15	21	7	43	40	25	35	16
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	236	237	222	268	233	255	*	301	319	322
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$2,100	\$2,300	\$2,600	\$2,200	\$5,500	\$3,200	\$20,000	\$14,000	\$8,400	\$15,000
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$300	\$600	\$500	\$300	\$300	\$500	\$400	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ *

\*None reported in Raleigh Baptist Association Minutes



CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Pastors during this 10-year period were:

Rev. Wilson Padgett, 1943  
Rev. Clyde Chapman, 1944  
Rev. B. J. Kinlaw, 1945, 1946  
Rev. Lonnie Woolweaver, 1947, 1948  
No pastor reported for 1949 and 1950 in RBA Minutes  
Rev. Malbert Smith, 1951, 1952  
Rev. Max Eller, Asst. Pastor, 1952

The Sunday School Superintendents during this 10-year period were:

Lincoln Hodge  
N. A. Knott  
J. T. House

Other Officers:

Church Clerks: Mrs. P. G. Woodard, Mrs. G. A. Owens, Mrs. Ruby Bailey  
Church Treasurers: J. O. Knott, Glenn Woodard, J. T. House, Warren Clark,  
Grady Douglas, Wallace Clark  
Chairmen of Boards of Deacons: G. M. Clark, N. A. Knott  
B.T.U. Directors: J. T. House, Lincoln Hodge, E. W. Hodge  
W.M.U. Presidents: Mrs. J. T. Moore, Mrs. E. A. Poythress, Mrs. J. R. Sauls  
Church Music Director, Organist and Pianist: Mrs. E. A. Poythress  
Choir Director: Paul Hicks

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association during this 10-year period were:

Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Clark	Mrs. W. R. Bullock
Lincoln Hodge	Mrs. Mattie Hicks
Mrs. L. Hodge	B. J. Kinlaw
Mrs. Mabel Hodge	Mrs. E. A. Poythress
Mrs. Mae Kirby	Rev. T. H. Allen
Rev. Malbert Smith	Earl Peoples
Mr. & Mrs. N. A. Knott	Rev. L. M. Woolweaver
Wilson Padgett	Mrs. J. O. Early
Mrs. J. A. Woodard	Mrs. W. P. Bailey
Mrs. A. B. Harrison	Mrs. J. R. Sauls
Baxter Durham	Mrs. D. H. Adams
Max Eller	

Deaths reported from Bethlehem to Raleigh Baptist Association during this period:

In 1943, Mrs. W. H. Carpenter, Mrs. Blossie Turnage, A. J. Montague  
In 1944, Mrs. Dora Ellen  
In 1945, Mrs. Susan Hodge, Mrs. H. J. Wall  
In 1947, Deacon A. B. Harrison, Mrs. Lucy Q. House  
In 1948, Mrs. I. C. Styles  
In 1950, Mr. Jack Clark, Mr. Vance Well, Mrs. John A. Woodard  
In 1951, Deacon N. A. Knott, Kress Allen  
In 1952, Mr. J. M. Andrews



APPENDIX 8  
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
1953 to 1962

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	430	419	425	424	437	430	438	435	457	524
BAPTISMS AND ADDITIONS	17	7	12	12	23	19	27	14	35	71
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	296	285	292	301	306	316	359	338	366	422
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$11,000	\$8,800	\$15,000	\$11,000	\$9,800	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$24,000
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$800	\$900	\$500	\$1,300	\$900	\$1,800	\$1,300	\$1,600	\$1,800	\$ 2,100

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS TEN-YEAR PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION AND FROM RECORD BOOK OF DEACON MEETINGS IN 1954-63

The Pastors during this period were:

Rev. Max A. Eller, 1953, 1954 & 1955  
Rev. R. Oren Bradley, 1956, 1957 and 1958  
Rev. Paul Craven, 1959, 1960  
Rev. Allen Laymon, 1961, 1962

The Sunday School Superintendents were:

J. T. House  
Paul Hicks  
E. A. Poythress

Other Officers:

Deacons - Dave Adams, Warren Clark, Edward Poythress (Chairman), Ed Stott, Emit Hodge, Morris Clark (Chairman), Paul Hicks (Chairman), Weldon DeMent, R. B. Hopkins (Chairman), A. C. Sparks, Sr., J. O. Broadwell, W. V. Clark, R. L. Knott (Chairman), Carl Holmquist, H. R. Callahan, Thomas House, James Broadwell, Baxter Durham, W. A. Taylor, J. R. Sauls (Chairman)

Honorary Deacons for Life - D. H. Adams, Sr., Baxter Durham, A. C. Sparks, Sr.  
Morris Clark

(A Junior Board of Deacons elected)

BTU Directors - E. W. Hodge, Lincoln Hodge, Mrs. R. B. Hopkins, W. V. Clark

Music Directors - Rev. Max Eller, Mrs. E. A. Poythress

Pianist and Organist - Mrs. E. M. Stott, Mrs. Robert Lassiter

WMU Presidents - Mrs. E. A. Poythress, Mrs. J. O. Knott

Treasurers - Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Clark, E. A. Poythress, J. O. Knott,  
Robert Lassiter

Clerks - Mrs. J. O. Broadwell, Mrs. Grady Douglas, Mrs. Charles Davis

Brotherhood Presidents - E. A. Poythress, J. O. Knott

Church Secretaries - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lassiter

First salaried part-time secretary was Mrs. Jack Smith  
(1962).

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association

Mrs. N. A. Knott	Baxter Durham	Rev. Allen Laymon
J. T. House	Lincoln Hodge	
Mrs. E. A. Poythress	Mrs. Welson DeMent	
Rev. Max Eller	Mrs. E. M. Stott	
Mrs. J. O. Knott	Mrs. Willie Bailey	
Carl Holmquist	Morris Clark	
Mrs. J. R. Sauls	Mrs. Mark Long	
Rev. & Mrs. Oren Bradley	Mrs. Thomas House	

Appendix 8 Continued

Deaths reported from Bethlehem to Raleigh Baptist Association during this period:

D. Bryant Harrison	J. A. Woodard	Mrs. Luna Mae Tippet
Eugene R. Wall	Pete Hodge	D. H. Adams, Sr.
Mrs. Allie Mae Williams	Mrs. John Griffin	Henry J. Wall
Mrs. Pattie Ramsey	Leroy Pope	Leon Harrison
Archie Carpenter	Mrs. Cleona Wall	M. L. Phillips
Mrs. J. W. McKenney	A. H. Kirk	Howard Baker
George Terry	John W. Griffin	W. G. Hinton
Norvell Adams	Mrs. L. P. Montague	





APPENDIX 9

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1963 to 1973

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	556	607	620	630	629	628	625	595	631	648
BAPTISMS AND ADDITIONS	39	67	37	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	460	344	505	630	496	500	518	473	364	365
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$33,000	\$47,000	\$25,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$30,000	\$36,000	\$40,000
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$3,000	\$2,600	\$2,300	\$1,400	\$2,300	\$2,500	\$1,800	\$2,800	\$3,300	\$3,300

\*None reported to RBA

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS TEN-YEAR PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION AND FROM RECORD BOOK OF DEACON MEETINGS FROM 1963 THROUGH 1972.

The Pastors during this period were:

Rev. Allen Laymon, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966 (August)  
Rev. Ted Janes, Interim Pastor  
Rev. J. Spurgeon Hayes, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 (May)  
Rev. Arthur Collier, 1970, 1971, 1972 (May)  
Rev. Ted Janes, Interim Pastor

Sunday School Superintendents during this period were:

E. A. Poythress                      Herman Williams  
Denny L. Turner                     Chesley Knott

Other Officers:

Chairmen of Deacons - E. A. Poythress, Herman Williams, J. W. McNeill  
R. B. Hopkins

Other Deacons - Willard Liles, James Pope, Dr. Alton Hood, James Broadwell,  
Carl Holmquist, Thomas House, Warren Clark, Paul Hicks,  
Al Wilson, Sr., K. B. Dickerson, Chesley Knott, Ray Bryan,  
H. R. Callahan, Joe Knott, Gilbert Averette, W. A. Taylor,  
Wallace Clark, Wade Freeman, Jr., James Earl Richardson,  
J. E. Knott, Robert Lassiter

Minister of Education - Denny L. Turner, 1963, 1964

Music Directors - Denny L. Turner, Mrs. R. W. Cody, Jr., Mrs. Frances Hughes,  
Mrs. Robert Lassiter was hired as full-time music  
director in August, 1971.

Pianist and Organist - Douglas Kelchener, Mrs. Spurgeon Hayes, Mrs. Edward K.  
Meyer, Mrs. Lynn Deaton, Mrs. Robert Lassiter,  
Mrs. Arthur Collier

BTU Directors - K. B. Dickerson, Ray Bryan, Arthur Collier

Church Clerks - Mrs. Charles Davis, Mrs. S. M. Baker, Arthur Collier,  
Mrs. Willard Liles

Church Treasurers - H. R. Callahan, Al Wilson, Sr., James Pope, Willard Liles,  
Robert Strickland, Cecil Kinsland

WMU Presidents - Mrs. E. A. Poythress, Mrs. Ronald Stell, Mrs. K. B. Dickerson,  
Mrs. Herbert Rosser

Church Secretaries - Mrs. Billy Wilder, Mrs. Ollie Wall

Church Librarians - Georgia Newton, Lynette Broadwell, Brenda Clark

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association

Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Clark	Mrs. S. M. Baker	Chesley Knott
Mrs. R. W. DeMent	Mrs. Willard Liles	Teresa Lassiter
Mr. & Mrs. K. B. Dickerson	James Earl Richardson	Gwen Liles
Mrs. Placid Knott	Mrs. Herbert Rosser	Mrs. Carlette Adams
Rev. Allen Laymon	Rev. J. Spurgeon Hayes	Barbara Dickerson
Mrs. Allen Laymon	Mrs. Gilbert Averette	
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lassiter	Rev. Arthur Collier	
Denny Turner	Mr. & Mrs. J. W. McNeill	
Mrs. E. B. Batson	Gail Liles	
Shelby Cody	Glynda Kinsland	
Mr. & Mrs. Al Wilson, Sr.		

## Appendix 9 Continued

Deaths reported from Bethlehem to Raleigh Baptist Association during this period:

Frank Massey	Bennie Ellen	Mrs. Walter Sherron
Baxter Durham	Carl Holmquist (Deacon)	Paul Hicks (Deacon)
George Caudle	Mrs. G. W. Poythress	J. W. Edwards
W. Benton Tart	Ed Woodall	Ed Hodge
Edward Andrews	Hank Rivers	Henry Carpenter
W. A. Terry	Mrs. Pearl Breland	Mrs. Margaret Kirk
L. D. Johnson	Mrs. A. H. Kirk	Frank Tart
Willie Bullock	Mark Long	A. C. Sparks, Sr.
Mrs. Frank Powell	Mrs. Willie Pearce	W. H. Carpenter
H. B. Webster	Geron Gay	Robert Barham
Willard Faison	Graham Knott	Elbert Willoughby
Emmett Hodge	Thomas House	Earl McLaughlin
J. D. Wall, Jr.	Mallie Poole	William Medlin



# APPENDIX 10

## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1973 to 1983

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	651	668	684	699	697	698	728	729	697	725
BAPTISMS AND OTHER ADDITIONS	32	33	24	12	11	36	23	32	32	39
SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP	319	351	363	306	330	364	364	357	368	363
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$80,000	\$52,000	\$59,000	\$206,000	\$106,000	\$174,000	\$127,000	\$125,000	\$137,000	\$146,000
GIFTS TO MISSIONS	\$4,700	\$4,200	\$5,900	\$6,100	\$5,600	\$9,200	\$9,500	\$10,300	\$10,300	\$12,400

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DURING THIS TEN-YEAR PERIOD AS REPORTED TO RALEIGH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, RECORD BOOK OF DEACON MEETINGS FROM 1973-1982 (Part of Deacon Meetings recorded for 1982 and church directories during this period.)

The Pastors during this period were:

Dr. William A. Marler, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 until October 3, 1977.  
Rev. Bill Poole served as Interim Pastor until  
Rev. Robert R. Boone, Jr., became pastor June 15, 1978.

The Sunday School Superintendents during this period were :

Chesley Knott  
Donnie Holmquist  
Gilbert Averette

Other Officers:

Deacons - Chairmen of Deacons were R. B. Hopkins, Gilbert Averette, J. W. McNeill, Chesley Knott, O. W. Strickland

Other Deacons - Willard Liles, Warren Clark, James Pope, J. E. Knott, James Earl Richardson, James Broadwell, Don Lucas, Donnie Holmquist, H. R. Callahan, E. V. Williams, Morris Clark, Robert Lassiter, Cecil Kinsland, Carlette Adams, Placid Knott, Frances Taylor (first women deacons), Buck Sauls, James Strother, Eulala Douglas, Kenneth Taylor, Betty Ruth Clark, Taylor Nethercutt, Maylon Baker, Robin Baker, Josie Douglas, Erick Smith, Andy Munday, Roxie Myrick, Al Sapaugh

WMU Presidents - Mrs. Mavis Sauls, Mrs. Dean Strickland, Mrs. Mary Conyers, Letty Liles

Pianists and Organists - Mrs. Randy Deaton, Mrs. Carolyn Fleming, Jeffrey Ferrell, Mrs. Jan Jeffreys, Terri Lassiter

Church Clerks - Mrs. Roxanne Carpenter, Christine Floyd

Music Director - Mrs. Margaret Lassiter

Church Treasurers - Cecil Kinsland, Mr. & Mrs. James Strother, Jimmie Sauls

Church Secretaries - Mrs. Ollie Wall, Linda Massey, Shelby Strother

Associate Minister - Rev. Sonny Blackwood

Messengers to Raleigh Baptist Association were:

Mr. & Mrs. Willard Liles	Lela Adams	L. C. Liles, Jr.
Gwen Liles	Eulala Douglas	Helen Pope
Dr. Bill Marler	Margaret Lassiter	Elaine Sapaugh
Carlette Adams	Virginia Long	Mary Conyers
Rev. & Mrs. Robert Boone	Mrs. E. A. Poythress	J. W. McNeill
Lillian Bullock	Polly Averette	
Placid Knott	Linda Early	
Jim Shoaf	Mildred Woodard	

Deaths reported from Bethlehem Baptist Church to Raleigh Baptist Association during this period were:

Roy Hicks	Clarence Edwards	Miss Ina Styles
Mrs. Annie Johnson	Mrs. L. O. Newton	R. L. Knott
Mrs. William Medlin	Mrs. Myrtle Knott	Morris Clark
L. H. Raybon	G. W. Poythress	Billy Gay
Mrs. J. O. Broadwell	Leola Wall	Mrs. Mabel Sparks
Monroe Barnes	Mrs. Deen Broadwell	Erastus Williams
Kermit Morgan	George Eatman	Mrs. Mary Clark
Mrs. Kathrine Knott	Harold Hicks	Henry "Joker" Tilton
Mrs. Frank Tart	Miss Rosa Jones	Marshall Williford
Billy Kirk	Mrs. Josephine Murphy	Edwin Myrick
Thomas Myrick	Mrs. Lillian Poole	Rolin Wall
R. T. Wall	Mrs. Rudene Mitchell	W. A. Taylor
David Baker	Mrs. Beddie Baker	Mrs. Mattie Hicks





## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

## CHURCH MADE INDENTURE TO PAY OFF DEBT

In 1885: From Wake County Courthouse in Register of Deeds' Office, Book 118, Page 660. "E. P. Wiggs, et als, Trustees of Bethlehem Church to N. B. Broughton, Trustee. This indenture made this 29th day of May, 1885, by and between E. P. Wiggs, W. A. Sater, and J. R. Blinson, Trustees of Bethlehem Church in the County of Wake and also the deacons of said church, parties of the first part; and N. B. Broughton, as Trustee, party of the second part; Whereas, the said trustees are indebted to Ellington Royster and Co., of the City of Raleigh, N. C., the sum of ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS and also to W. W. Powell, the sum of SEVENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND THIRTY CENTS, which debt was secured for building said church is anxious to secure the payment of said sums of money."

"Now, Therefore, in consideration of the promises and forever for the consideration of One Dollar to the said church in hand paid receipt, whereof as hereby duly acknowledged, the said parties of the first part have given, granted, bargained, sell and conveyed to the party of the second party, his heirs and assigns, the following described land lying in Wake County and described as follows: Adjoining J. D. Powell on the south and W. A. Sater on the other three sides, being the church building and the lot of land on which it is situated."

"To have and to hold to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assign trusts: That in case the said parties of the first part fail to pay the two sums of money therefore on or before the first day of November A.D. 1895, then and in that case, the said party of the second part shall enter on and take possession of said land and said land shall be sold at public auction at the courthouse door in Raleigh, NC, after advertising the same for thirty days at the said courthouse door and three other public places in Wake County and out of the proceeds shall first pay the amount of the debt due to Ellington Royster and Co., and the residue, if any, he shall pay over to the parties of the first part or their assigns, and if the parties of the first part shall pay the two several sums above specified before the first day of November A.D. 1885, then these presents shall be marked void. In testimony whereof, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals as such trustees and aforesaid.

Witness, J. R. Hocutt

E. P. Wiggs (Seal)

Witness, E. P. Wiggs

W. A. Sater (Seal)

Witness, E. P. Wiggs

J. R. Blinson (Seal)

This was filed in Book 118, Page 660, January 22, 1892."

NOTE: This statement was written on side of above mortgage.

"This mortgage satisfied by said of property by foreclosure and deed made to George F. Kennedy this January 20th, 1896. (Signed) N. B. Broughton, Trustee."

## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

## LARKIN SMITH AND WIFE DEED LAND TO PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE

In 1884: From Wake County Courthouse in Register of Deed' Office, Book 79, Page 450. (This deed below has reference to Larkin Smith and wife having deeded land to Bethlehem Baptist Church before they made deed for land to public school committee. Shaffer's map of Wake County in 1887 shows Bethlehem Church and across the road a public school building located on the New Poole Road. Therefore, Larkin Smith made deed to church probably in 1883 and land for public school that joined church property in deed described below.)

"Larkin Smith and wife to Pub. S. Comm., Dist. 3, Marks Creek T.

State of North Carolina, Wake County: This deed made the 1st day of May, 1884, by Larkin Smith and wife of Wake County and State of North Carolina to E. P. Wiggs, N. P. Jones and John Pair, Public School Cimmittee of Dist. No. 3., Marks Creek Township, Wake County, North Carolina. Witnesseth: The said Larkin Smith and Arthelia A. R. Smith, his wife, in consideration of Ten Dollars to them paid by the said Public School Committee, the receipt of which is acknowledged, have bargained and sold to the Public School Committee and their successors in office a tract or parcel of land in Wake County, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lands of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Larkin Smith and others bounded as follows: Beginning at the S.W. corner of land deeded by Larkin Smith to the Trustees of Bethlehem Baptist Church; thence west 35 yards to a stake; thence north of said church lands; thence with the western line of church land 70 yards to the beginning containing one acre, more or less, for the purpose of erecting thereon a public school house for the use and benefit of the children in the said district. To have and to hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said public school committee and their successors in office. To their only use and behoof and the said Larkin Smith and wife covenant that they are seized of said premises in fee and have the right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same is free from all encumberances and that they will warrant and defend the title to the same against the claim of all persons whomsoever. In testimony whereof, the said Larkin Smith and wife, Arthelia A.R. Smith, have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written."

Attest: D. R. Upchurch

Larkin Smith (Seal)

A. A. R. Smith (Seal)

## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED BETHLEHEM CHURCH HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN FOUND BY THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

"Bethlehem Baptist Church\* - constituted 1883 by Rev. A. Betts and others. Received into Raleigh Association 1883. First services 1883-84, held in an old school building which was purchased and remodeled into present structure. Present building 1885 -- a frame structure with plain glass windows, double doors on north side, single doors on east and west sides, three Sunday School rooms in east wing, belfry, bell, and seating capacity of 500. Dedicated August, 1887 by Dr. Skinner and Rev. Betts. Belfry, bell and Sunday School rooms added 1930. At the time of this survey, there was under construction at the south end of the building an annex to be used for Sunday School purposes. First resident clergyman - Rev. Alvin Betts 1883-85. Graduate of Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C. The church has reported a Sunday School since date constituted. Church membership in 1883 - 8; 1890 - 36; 1900 - 69; 1910 - 76; 1920 - 104; 1930 - 187; 1938 - 200. Record book, 1935, 1 Vol., includes minutes of church conferences, Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees; membership rolls showing how and when received and when and how dismissed; reports to the association and record of appointments of committees, baptisms, marriages, deaths, receipts and disbursements, in custody of Mr. A. H. Kirk, Knightdale, N.C., Sunday School records 1934 - 6 Vols., includes membership rolls, names of officers and teachers, secretary report, and record of visitors, attendance, receipts and disbursements. Kept at church." \*\*

\*Inventory of Church Archives in N. C. Raleigh Association WPA Division Project July, 1940.

\*\*All church records are lost up to 1954. Church Clerk sent statistical information to Raleigh Baptist Association each year and they are recorded in annual report.

## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION

In 1896: (From Wake County Courthouse in Register of Deeds' Office, Book 139, Page 212) "N. B. Broughton, Trustee of G. F. Kennedy (He was superintendent of Sunday School at Bethlehem Baptist Church.)

"This deed made this 20th day of January, 1896, between N. B. Broughton, Trustee, party of the first part, and George F. Kennedy, party of the second part, both of the said county and state; Witnesseth: That whereas, on the 29th day of May, 1885, E. P. Wiggs, W. A. Sater and James Blinson, Trustees of Bethlehem Baptist Church executed this mortgage or deed of trust to the said Broughton, Trustee, to secure an indebtedness of said trustees as described in said mortgage, which was duly recorded in Book 118, Page 660, Register's Office for Wake County; and whereas, it was stipulated in said mortgage that if said trustees failed to pay the said indebtedness when due on the 1st day of November, 1895, then the said Broughton, Trustee, should be empowered to sell the land embraced in said mortgage or deed of trust which hereinafter described at public auction at the courthouse door in Raleigh after advertising the sale for 30 days at the said courthouse door and three other public places in Wake County and convey the said land to the purchasers; and whereas, the said trustees failed to pay said debt when due and said Broughton, Trustee, advertised the sale of said land as required in said mortgage and also advertised said sale in the Biblical Recorder, a newspaper published in Raleigh, for 30 days, The said Broughton, Trustee, sold the said land at the courthouse door of Wake County at public auction for cash at 12 o'clock on the 20th of January, 1896. When and where the said G. F. Kennedy became the last and highest bidder for the sum of Eighty-Two Dollars, and having paid the said amount to said Broughton, Trustee, desired a deed be made to him for said land. Now, therefore, in consideration of the promises and the payment of the said purchase money, the receipt of which is hereby conferred to the said Broughton, Trustee, does hereby bargain, sell and convey to the said George F. Kennedy and his heirs and assigns the following described land to wit: Adjoining the lands of J. C. Pool on the south and lands of C. H. Smith on the east and north and lands of J. C. Jordon on the west; containing 1 acre more or less. To have and to hold the said land and possessions to him, the said G. F. Kennedy, his heirs and assigns, in as full and ample manners as the said Broughton, Trustee, is empowered to convey the same under the said mortgage or deed of trust. In testimony whereof, the said N. B. Broughton has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written."



## BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SELLS CHURCH BACK TO TRUSTEES FOR \$100.00

In 1896: (From Wake County Courthouse in Register of Deeds' Office, Book 136, Page 129) "This deed made the 20th day of January, 1896, by Geo. F. Kennedy and wife, Ada A. Kennedy, Wake County and State of North Carolina, parties of the first part; to James M. Ferrell, Alexander Montague and Wm. Straughan, Trustees of Bethlehem Baptist Church of Marks Creek Township of Wake County and State of North Carolina, party of the second part; Witnesseth: That said George F. Kennedy and wife, Ada A. Kennedy, in consideration of One Hundred Dollars to heirs paid by said trustees, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey to said James M. Ferrell Alexander Montague and Wm. Straughan and their successors, a certain tract of land in Wake County, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lands of J. C. Jordon and others bounded as follows: Bounded on the south by the lands of J. C. Pool and on the east and north by the lands of C. H. Smith and on the west by lands of J. C. Jordon, containing one acre and being the same land conveyed to Geo. F. Kennedy by N. B. Broughton, Trustee. To have and to hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said James M. Ferrell, Alexander Montague and Wm. Straughan and their successors, their only use and behoof forever. And the said George F. Kennedy and wife, Ada A., covenant with said trustees and their successors that they are seized of said premises in fee and have right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same are free and clear from all encumbrances and that they will warrant and defend the title to the same against the claims of all persons whomsoever. In testimony whereof, the said George F. Kennedy and wife, Ada A., have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written."

G. F. Kennedy (Seal)

Ada A. Kennedy (Seal)



# Service of Dedication

## Bethlehem Baptist Church

### Knightdale, North Carolina

### Sunday, May 20, 1979

THE ORGAN PRELUDE ..... *Mrs. Carolyn Fleming*

THE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC. . . "Bless This House"—Taylor/Brahe

Solo, *Al Hinton*; Terri Lassiter, Accompanist

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP. . . "This Is The Day"—Gerig ..... *Choirs*

THE INVOCATION ..... *Pastor*

THE GREETING OF OUR GUESTS AND

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL FRIENDS ..... *O. W. Strickland*

THE HYMN OF PRAISE (33). . . "To God Be The Glory"—Crosby

THE ROLL CALL OF CHURCHES ..... *Wallace Clark*

THE OFFERTORY HYMN (236). . . "The Church's One Foundation"—Stone

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

THE DOXOLOGY

THE RECOGNITION OF MEMORIALS AND

DECEASED DEACONS SINCE JULY 30, 1976 ..... *The Rev. Bill Poole*

THE ACT OF DEDICATION ..... *The Rev. Dr. Bill Marler*

Minister: To the glory of God the Father  
who has called us by His grace;  
To the honor of His Son,  
who loved us and gave Himself for us;  
To the praise of the Holy Spirit,  
who illumines and sanctifies us;

*People:* We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the worship of God in prayer and praise;  
For the preaching of the everlasting gospel;  
For the celebration of the holy ordinances;

*People:* We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the comfort of all who mourn;  
For strength to those who are tempted;  
For light to those who seek the way;

*People:* We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the hallowing of family life;  
For teaching and guiding the young;  
For the perfecting of the saints;

*People:* We dedicate this house.

Minister: In the unity of the faith;  
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;  
In charity and good will to all;

*People:* We dedicate this house.

Minister: In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church;  
In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;  
In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

*People:* We dedicate this house.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION ..... *E. A. Poythress*

THE CHORAL PRAISE. . . "Festival of Praise"—Clark/Stevens ..... *Choirs*

THE MESSAGE OF DEDICATION. . . *Thy Eye Is Upon This House* ..... *Pastor*

II Chronicles 6:12-21

THE HYMN OF COMMITMENT (409). . . "When We Walk With The Lord"—Sammis

THE BENEDICTION AND BLESSING FOR THE MEAL ..... *J. O. Early, Jr.*

# We Acknowledge His Faithfulness

July 30, 1976, at seven o'clock, is a time our people will long remember. Lightning started a fire in the roof of the sanctuary that quickly spread throughout the building. As people watched the angry blaze, tears streamed from eyes. In disbelief, the community tried to comprehend what this tragedy meant to the community.

During the days that followed, our people sought God's guidance. Many people and churches responded to our need. This was God's way of showing to us His Will. With a vision before us, we moved forward and God proved again His faithfulness.

Today, May 20, 1979, is our Day of Dedication--a time to set this building apart for the proclamation of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. This beautiful new edifice is a witness to the fact that God answers prayer. It is also a testimony of the faith and vision of the people of God who desire both a beautiful church for the worship of their great God and a functional place for the public proclamation of God's saving love.

Today we acknowledge God's faithfulness and dedicate ourselves as His Temples---"living epistles known and read of men." We all proclaim a new beginning and a new commitment to our Lord that we may reach our community for Jesus, grow a strong church and expand the Kingdom of God.

May God be Praised,

*Robert R. Boone, Jr.*

Robert R. Boone, Jr.  
Pastor

# Recognitions

Mrs. Roxie Smith

McKimmon, Rogers, Edwards & Associates, Architects

Sparrow Construction Company, Contractor

Stained Glass Associates, Robert J. Wysocki

Reid Music Company, Rocky Mount, N. C.

Yamaha Grand Piano, Mr. Bill Holland

The Organ Gallery, Allen Computer Organ,

Mr. Vernon Jordon

## Planning Committee:

Mr. Hamilton R. Callahan

Mrs. Elaine Hopkins

Mr. James R. "Buck" Sauls

Mrs. Faye Sauls

Mr. O. W. Strickland

## Bond Committee:

Mr. Wallace Clark

Mr. F. L. Hopkins

Keen-Age Club Members

Mr. Cecil Kinsland

Mrs. Sue O'Briant

Mr. Joe O'Neal

Mr. James L. Strother

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Taylor

## Building Committee:

Mr. Wallace Clark

Mr. Robert Lassiter

Mr. William H. Pope

Mr. James L. Strother

Knightdale Volunteer Fire Department

Wendell Volunteer Fire Department

New Hope Fire Department

Garner Fire Department

Raleigh Fire Department

Wendell Rescue Squad

# Love Offerings

## From the Churches:

Athens Drive Baptist Church, Raleigh	Knightdale Baptist Church,
Bay Leaf Baptist Church, Raleigh	Knightdale
Calvary Baptist Church, Raleigh	Knightdale United Methodist Church,
Carolina Pines Baptist Church,	Knightdale
Raleigh	Longview Baptist Church, Raleigh
Cary First Baptist Church, Cary	Morrisville Baptist Church, Morrisville
Cary Presbyterian Church, Cary	Mount Moriah Baptist Church,
Central Baptist Church, Wendell	Raleigh
Clyde's Chapel Baptist Church,	New Hill Baptist Church, New Hill
Wendell	New Hope Baptist Church, Raleigh
Collins Grove Baptist Church, Raleigh	Reedy Creek Baptist Church, Cary
Ebenezer United Methodist Church,	Samaria Baptist Church, Raleigh
Raleigh	Stoney Hill Baptist Church,
Ephesus Baptist Church, Cary	Wake Forest
First Baptist Church, Garner	Swift Creek Baptist Church, Raleigh
First Baptist Church,	Temple Baptist Church, Raleigh
Liberty, South Carolina	Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh
First Baptist Church, Raleigh	Turner Memorial Baptist Church,
Fellowship Baptist Church, Raleigh	Raleigh
Fuller Memorial Baptist Church	Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church,
Raleigh	Raleigh
Good Hope Baptist Church,	Wakefield Central Baptist Church,
Wendell	Zebulon
Greenlevel Baptist Church, Apex	Wakeminster Baptist Church,
Green Pines Baptist Church,	Wake Forest
Knightdale	Wake Union Baptist Church,
Greenwood Forest Baptist Church,	Wake Forest
Cary	Zebulon Baptist Church, Zebulon
Hayes Barton Baptist Church,	Raleigh Baptist Association,
Raleigh	Charles McMillian,
Highland Baptist Church, Raleigh	Director of Missions
Hillcrest Baptist Church, Raleigh	



THE CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and angels, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body of Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it sacred prominence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful of our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

HYMNS SELECTED FROM EAGLE ROCK SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD BOOK OF 1875 - 1880\*

"Fly to the Ark of Rest"	"Open Door"
"This Year for Jesus"	"Land of Light"
"Only a Step to Jesus"	"City of Gold"
"Pray for the Blessing"	"Draw Me Nearer"
"Ring, Ring the Bells"	"Our Better Home Beyond"
"All for Jesus"	"One Drop of the Blood"
"By the Well Side"	"Prodigal Child"
"I Need the Every Hour"	"Always Jesus"
"Always Cheerful"	"What Should the Harvest Be?"
"Pardon of the Cross"	"Labor On"
"Ask for the Old Faith"	"We Praise Him"
"Just a Word for Jesus"	"Glory to God in the Highest"
"Jesus is Coming Again"	"Trusting in the Promises"
"Every Day and Hour"	"Over Jordan"
"Singing and Praising Forever"	"Bringing in the Sheaves"
"Who Will Meet Me There?"	"God is Love"
"Coming, Yes Ever Coming"	"Heavenly Mansions"
"A Home in Heaven"	"Home of the Saviour"
"All the Way My Saviour Leads"	"The Royal Road"
"Sabbath Bells"	

\*Eagle Rock Sunday School (also called Sabbath School) was located about five miles northeast of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

## APPENDIX 19

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PASTORS WHO SERVED BETHLEHEM

(Photographs of all former pastors not available)

#### REV. ALVIN BETTS Our First Pastor - 1883-1884

Rev. Alvin Betts was born in Harnett County, North Carolina, June 1, 1828, and in 1850 married Miss Lucy King of Asbury in Wake County. He attended Wake Forest College. Mr. Betts was active in the ministry for many years and served as pastor of several churches in The Raleigh Association. Mr. Betts was one of four brothers who entered the ministry. He was the organizer of the Swift Creek and Bethlehem Baptist Churches. Rev. Betts was connected with Tabernacle Baptist Church in Raleigh. A memorial window, in his honor, can be found in this church. Rev. Betts died at 9:10 o'clock A.M., February 8, 1910, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. J. Dowell, on New Bern Avenue and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. He was survived by four children.

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#### REV. JOHN WESLEY SLEDGE Our Second Pastor - 1885

Rev. John W. Sledge was born in Franklin County, North Carolina, in 1830. He studied at Wakefield Academy and was licensed to preach in 1882. His ministerial labors were for the most part confined to the Tar River Association. He held many protracted meetings and baptized many converts. He died on May 29, 1919.

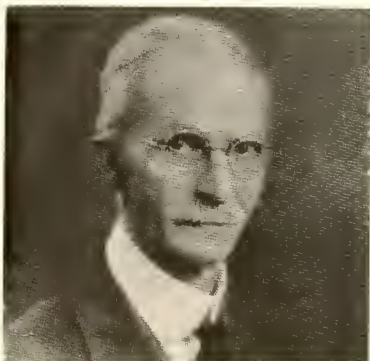
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#### REV. DUNCAN McLEOD Our Third Pastor - 1886

Rev. Duncan McLeod was born in Raleigh, North Carolina. He was licensed to preach by Sandy Level Baptist Church. Rev. McLeod was ordained in The Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church of Raleigh, NC, on January 11, 1885. His pastorates up to 1899 were Samaria, Salem, Swift Creek, Bethlehem, Beaufort, Washington, and Selma, North Carolina, and Petersburg, Western Branch, Caloose, and Portsmouth Baptist Churches in Virginia. He held several pastorates in North Carolina during the twentieth century, but we were unable to locate anything else other than he was a good minister serving his Master well and got along with his brethren. (This information obtained from The History of Samaria Baptist Church.)

REV. J. R. PACE  
Our Fourth Pastor - 1887-1888

Rev. J. R. Pace was born near Raleigh, North Carolina, on August 11, 1858. Rev. Pace attended Wake Forest College at Wake Forest, North Carolina. He married Fannie Lawrence in 1890. He served several churches in the Raleigh Baptist Association. Rev. Pace moved to Ridgecrest in the western part of North Carolina in 1921. He lived there until his death on July 13, 1925.



REV. OLIVER LARKIN STRINGFIELD  
Our Fifth Pastor - 1889

Rev. O. L. Stringfield was born at Moore's Creek in Pender County, North Carolina, on May 9, 1851. He graduated from Wake Forest College and was the founder of the Wakefield Academy. He was pastor of several churches before becoming Financial Agent for Meredith College. He retired in Wendell, North Carolina, and died in 1930 after being hit by a train while walking near his home.

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REV. W. M. SORRELL  
Our Sixth Pastor - 1890-1891

No records available.

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REV. J. L. COTTINGHAM  
Our Seventh Pastor - 1892

Rev. J. L. Cottingham was born October 7, 1862. His ministry lasted only seven or eight years as he was stricken with Malaria Fever while conducting a revival meeting in Tatum, South Carolina. He died October 8, 1892.



REV. J. H. HUTCHINSON  
Our Eighth Pastor - 1893-1895 and in 1906

Rev. Hutchinson was born in Granville County on April 5, 1834. He had farming interests and was in the ministry for forty years. He first married Lacy Nipper and after her death married Earnie Booker Olive. He was not only interested in preaching the gospel but aided in starting benevolent institutions. Rev. Hutchinson was instrumental in erecting Mills Home in Thomasville. He died in Raleigh on May 12, 1929, at the age of 95.

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REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON COPPEDGE  
Our Ninth Pastor - 1897-1899

Rev. G. W. Coppedge was born in Nash County, North Carolina, in 1844. He was ordained to full work in the ministry in 1880. He pastored several churches in the Wake County area as well as in Nash, Franklin, Warren, Vance and Harnett Counties. He died on October 9, 1914.

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REV. GEORGE W. MAY  
Our Tenth Pastor - 1900

Rev. George W. May was born in Franklin County on March 21, 1869. He was converted in 1885 and entered Wake Forest College after he was called to preach. He served pastorates in the Tar River and Raleigh Baptist Associations until the time of his death.

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REV. W. Y. CHAPPELL  
Our Eleventh Pastor - 1901-1904

Rev. W. Y. Chappell was born in Granville County on March 6, 1855. He moved to Wake County in 1874. He married Molly King in 1878. Rev. Chappell died September 8, 1904. He left a wife and four children. He was ordained in 1894. He served several churches in Granville and Wake Counties. He baptized about 300 during his short ministry. Rev. Chappell died while serving at Bethlehem.

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REV. DAVID D. EDWARDS  
Our Twelfth Pastor - 1905

Rev. D. D. Edwards was converted early in life and preached for about thirty years in several churches in North Carolina. He was married first to Josephine Johnson. To this union was born eight children. Two years before he died, he married Edna Price. Rev. Edwards died at his home in Selma on May 14, 1913.

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No pastor reported in Raleigh Baptist Association minutes in 1906.

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REV. J. S. HAGWOOD  
Our Thirteenth Pastor - 1907

Rev. Hagwood, after an illness of several months, departed this life on November 17, 1913, in Knightdale. His remains were interred at his old home-place near Zebulon, North Carolina. He was survived by his wife and six children.

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REV. CARDWIN HIGH NORRIS  
Our Fourteenth Pastor - 1908-1909

Rev. C. H. Norris was born October 17, 1883, in Wake County and was ordained on May 29, 1908, while he was a student at Wake Forest College. He married Mabel Viola Smith in December, 1912, and they had two sons. For over 50 years he served churches in Johnston, Franklin, Harnett, Wake and Granville Counties. He had been retired seven years when he died on November 12, 1966.

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No pastor reported in Raleigh Baptist Association minutes in 1910.

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REV. C. RUSSELL SORRELL  
Our Fifteenth Pastor - 1911

Rev. C. Russell Sorrell was pastor at The Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, North Carolina, when he was killed in an auto accident on his way to church on September 5, 1924. He was married to Grace Sullivan of Marble Hill, Missouri, in 1916.



REV. LEVY LEONIDAS CARPENTER  
Our Sixteenth Pastor - 1912

Dr. L. L. Carpenter was born November 29, 1891, near Carpenter in Wake County, North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest College, Southern Theological Seminary and Yale University. He married Lucille O'Brien on September 2, 1919, and they had two sons. He served as pastor in several states before becoming editor of The Biblical Recorder. He died August 22, 1966.

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REV. E. M. LASSITER  
Our Seventeenth Pastor - 1913

Elvis Martin Lassiter was born on December 25, 1871, in the northeast section of Wake County. His death occurred at his home in Apex on March 9, 1915. He was 44 years of age. He married Cassie Yates in 1893, who, with five children, survived him. He sold his farm and home in 1902 and entered Buies Creek Academy in 1902. He was ordained in 1904 -- two years later attended Wake Forest College. He filled pulpits in Sampson, Harnett, Wake, Jones and Granville Counties.

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REV. H. G. BRYANT  
Our Eighteenth Pastor - 1914-1915

The only data in The Baptist Historical Collection of Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University on Rev. H. G. Bryant -- "He attended the Brown Creek Association meeting at Mount Pleasant Union Baptist Church."



REV. G. TITUS MILLS  
Our Nineteenth Pastor -- 1916-1919

Rev. Mills was born on December 2, 1878, in western Wake County. He received his education at Buies Creek Academy at Wake Forest College. He was ordained in 1896 at Olive Chapel Church. Mr. Mills first married Callie Williams on October 23, 1904. Two boys and five girls were born to this union. After his first wife's death, he married Electra Farrar on June 11, 1921. Two children, a boy and girl, were born of this marriage. His son, Rev. W. T. Mills, is our guest speaker at the Centennial/Homecoming October 9, 1983. Rev. Mills preached over 40 years. He died October 11, 1944.

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REV. B. G. EARLY  
Our Twentieth Pastor - 1920-1921

Rev. Early was born in Hertford County, North Carolina, on September 17, 1869. He was educated at Wake Forest College and was ordained on April 29, 1900. He married Nacia Godwin on March 13, 1891. Eight children were born of this marriage. Rev. Early was a Baptist minister for more than 60 years in churches in eastern North Carolina. Rev. Early passed away in October, 1961, at the age of 92.

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No pastor reported in Raleigh Baptist Association minutes in 1922.

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REV. R. E. ATKINS  
Our Twenty-First Pastor - 1923-1936

Rev. R. E. Atkins was our pastor longer than any other pastor up to this date. He was born May 29, 1871, and died November 23, 1957. Rev. Atkins married the former Isley Pendergraph. To this union were born four children. He was pastor of four other churches: Swift Creek, Kennebec, Pleasant Plains and Piney Grove Baptist.

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REV. DOUGLAS M. BRANCH  
Our Twenty-Second Pastor - 1937-1941

Rev. Douglas M. Branch was reared on a farm in the Mt. Moriah Community of Wake County. He graduated from Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary. In 1956, Wake Forest College conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity. He served several churches in this area. In May of 1959, while serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, he was elected General Secretary of the Baptist State Convention. He was killed in a two-vehicle collision near Ahoskie, NC, on February 1, 1963.



REV. LEON HOWARD HOLLINGSWORTH  
Our Twenty-Third Pastor - 1942

Rev. L. H. Hollingsworth lives in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He is married to the former Bess Walker of Spindale, North Carolina. They have three children: twins, Nancy and Pat, and Linda. Rev. Hollingsworth graduated from Wake Forest College and attended New Orleans Theological Seminary, Southeastern and Union Theological Seminaries. He was a Chaplain in World War II. Dr. Hollingsworth has served as president of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention. He received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Wake Forest University. He has been pastor of Emerywood Baptist Church in High Point since 1970. Dr. Hollingsworth offers the invocation before each home football game at Wake Forest. These prayers are published in a book, God Goes To Football Games, A Book Of Uncommon Prayers. This book is available on Wake Forest University campus or may be ordered directly from Dr. Hollingsworth.

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REV. WILSON W. PADGETT  
Our Twenty-fourth Pastor - 1943

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No pastor reported in Raleigh Baptist Association minutes in 1944.



REV. CLYDE CHAPMAN  
Our Twenty-fifth Pastor

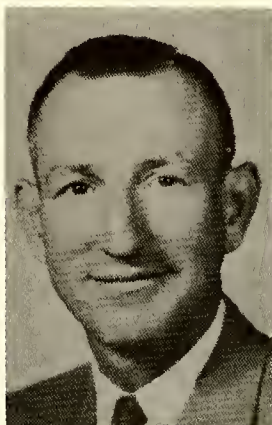
Rev. Chapman is a native of Cleveland County. He attended Wake Forest College and received his Th.D Degree from Southern Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Chapman has pastored churches in Lexington, Kentucky, and in North Carolina. He married the former Sue Whiteside of Rutherfordton and they have two children, Susan and David.

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REV. B. J. KINLAW  
Our Twenty-sixth Pastor - 1945-1946

No data available.

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REV. LONNIE M. WOOLWEAVER  
Our Twenty-seventh Pastor - 1947-1948

Rev. L. M. Woolweaver was born February 19, 1911, in Gallipolis, Ohio. He attended Campbell and Wake Forest College. He and his wife, Mary, received training in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas. Rev. Woolweaver was pastor in Texas, Rocky Mount, Elm City and Samaria. His last church was Ephesus Baptist Church in Cary, North Carolina, where he was pastor until he retired in January, 1976. He married the former Mary E. McDaniel and they had two children.

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No pastors reported in Raleigh Baptist Association minutes in 1949 and 1950.



REV. MALBERT SMITH, JR.  
Our Twenty-Eighth Pastor - 1951-1952

Rev. Malbert Smith, Jr., is a native of Durham, NC. He attended Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary. Mr. Smith taught and coached athletics at Knightdale High School. He is married to the former Virginia Little of LaGrange, NC. They have two children, Carol and Dr. Malbert Smith, III. Rev. Smith, after leaving Bethlehem, served as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC. He is now in his twenty-sixth year as pastor of Greystone Baptist Church in Durham, NC. Greystone has 2,800 members.

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REV. MAX ALFRED ELLER  
Our Twenty-Ninth Pastor - 1953-1955

Rev. Max A. Eller graduated from Wake Forest College and Southeastern Baptist Seminary. He came to Bethlehem as our first Director of Music, served as Supply Pastor and, in 1953, was called as Church Pastor. After serving as pastor of Bethlehem and Maxton Baptist Churches, he went into the chaplaincy. He served in Vietnam and in the States. He married the former Doris Stroud and they have three children, two boys and a girl.





REV. ROBERT OREN BRADLEY  
Our Thirtieth Pastor - 1956-1959

Rev. R. Oren Bradley was born March 11, 1918, in Charlotte, NC. He graduated from Bob Jones College and Southeastern Baptist Seminary. He is married to the former Nadine P. Woodlief and they have two children. He has served as pastor to churches in Texas and North Carolina. Rev. Bradley recently retired as Missionary to Surry Baptist Association in Mt. Airy, NC.

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REV. PAUL CRAVEN AND REV. TED JANES have served as Interim Pastors. No data available.

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REV. CHARLES ALLEN LAYMON  
Our Thirty-First Pastor - 1960-1966

Rev. Allen Laymon was born on April 4, 1933, in Casey, Illinois. He received his education at Bob Jones University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina. He is married to the former Rebecca Smith and they have three children. He has served as pastor in Texas, Kansas and North Carolina. Rev. Laymon is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC.

REV. ARTHUR COLLIER, JR.  
Our Thirty-Third Pastor - 1970-1972

Rev. Arthur Collier, Jr., is a native of South Carolina. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College and Southeastern Seminary. Mr. Collier also received further training in Music from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has served as pastor of Jonesboro Baptist Church, Blackstone, Virginia, and Clement Baptist Church at Hurdle Mills, North Carolina. Rev. Collier also served as Assistant Pastor at Bethlehem before becoming Pastor. Mr. Collier married the former Helen Staley of Roxboro, N. C. She taught in the Raleigh Public Schools. The Colliers have one daughter.

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DR. WILLIAM A. MARLER  
Our Thirty-Fourth Pastor - 1973-1977

Dr. Bill Marler is a native of Laurens and Greenville, South Carolina. After serving in the U. S. Army, he worked for Walgreens Drug Company. Responding to the call for fulltime christian service, he entered Furman University and graduated in 1968 with a B.A. Degree. He holds a Masters Degree and Doctorate in Divinity from Southeastern Seminary. Dr. Marler is married to the former Barbara June Plyler of Rock Hill, South Carolina. He has served as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church of Fountain, South Carolina, and Lystra Baptist Church of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



REV. WILLIAM A. POOLE  
Interim Pastor - 1977-June 15, 1978

Rev. Bill Poole was born and raised on a farm near Knightdale, NC, in Wake County. Mr. Poole attended school in Knightdale, Kings Business College, Campbell College, Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rev. Poole has been pastor of churches within a thirty-five mile radius of his birthplace for fifty-two years. He married the former Tina Marie Walker of St. Louis, Missouri. They have two sons, William H. Poole, II, and Henry Poole. Rev. Poole and Tina have retired and are living at the old homeplace, Route 2, Box 40, Knightdale, NC 27545.

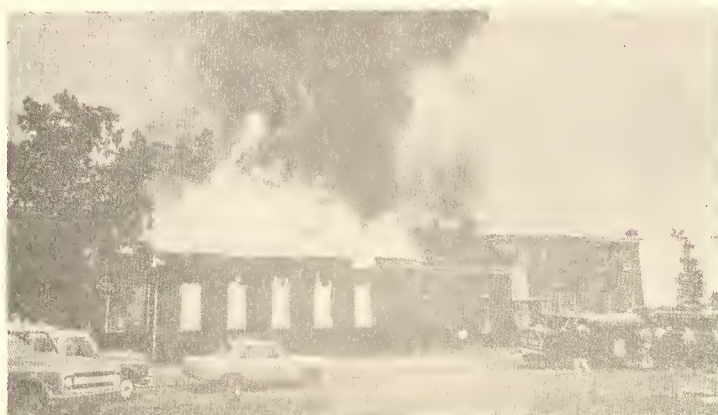
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REV. ROBERT R. BOONE, JR.  
Our Thirty-Fifth and Present Pastor  
June 15, 1978-

Rev. Robert R. Boone, Jr., was born in Franklin County, North Carolina. He is married to the former Carol Turner and they have two daughters, Angelia and Amy. Rev. Boone attended Campbell College and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received his A.B. Degree. He received his Bachelor of Divinity and his Master of Divinity Degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, NC. Rev. Boone has served on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention and on the Executive Committee of the same body. He came to Bethlehem from Arlington Street Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, NC.

SOME PHOTOGRAPHS CONTRIBUTED BY CHURCH MEMBERS, THE GOLD LEAF FARMER AND  
THE NEWS AND OBSERVER



LIGHTNING STRIKES AND FIRE DESTROYS OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY  
July 30, 1976, at 7 o'clock p.m.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES FOR OUR NEW CHURCH BUILDING WAS HELD SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 16, 1977. MEMBERS SHOWN ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr. Joe Broadwell,  
Mrs. R. L. Knott, Mr. R. L. Knott, Mr. O. W. Strickland, Mrs. Lela Adams  
(back to camera), Dr. William Marler, Taylor Nethercutt and Mrs. Mattie  
Hicks.



KATHIE HOPKINS WAS SADDENED BY FIRE





A SCENE AT ONE OF OUR CHURCH PICNICS  
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE GUY ON THE LEFT WITH THE BALD HEAD?



TONY AND CARLETTE ADAMS  
TONY IS DRINKING AND CARLETTE IS EATING!



CAN YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF IN THIS SCENE?



MRS. VIRGINIA LONG AND J. W. O'NEAL, JR.,  
ENJOYING THE FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AT CHURCH PICNIC



DORSEY ADAMS IS SELECTING HIS SECOND PIECE OF PIE.



OUR PASTOR, REV. ROBERT R. BOONE, JR.,  
PRESIDING OVER A THANKSGIVING SCENE



OUR CHURCH IS NEARING COMPLETION



RAISING OF THE CHURCH STEEPLE



OUR PASTOR, REV. ROBERT R. BOONE, JR., PRESIDING AT CHURCH PICNIC  
J. O. EARLY, JR., IS ABOUT TO RETURN THANKS



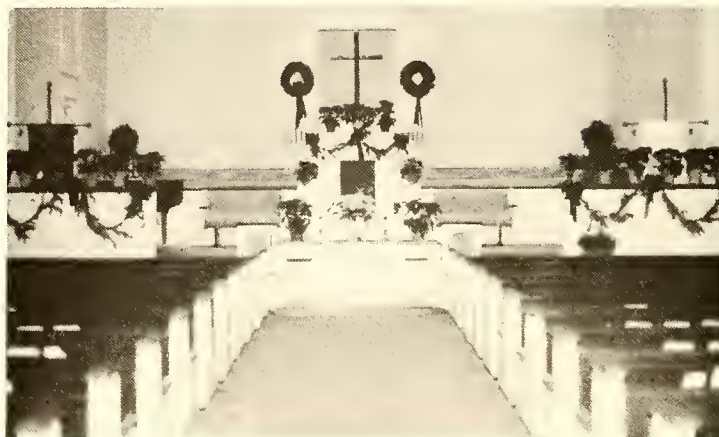
R. B. HOPKINS AND WIFE, ELAINE,  
ADMIRING GRANDCHILD AT CHURCH PICNIC



HOOD APPRECIATION DAY

January 2, 1966

SHOWN LEFT TO RIGHT: LISA, DR. HOOD, KENT, MRS. HOOD, SHARON, CARMEN



OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

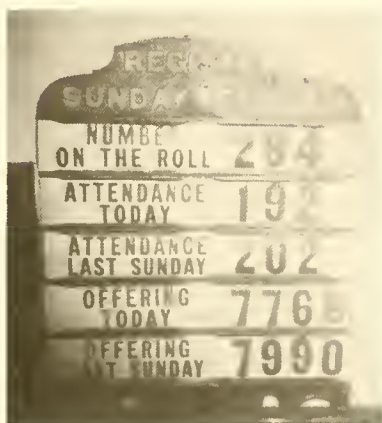




A CAR IS PRESENTED TO OUR PASTOR, REV. ALLEN LAYMON  
Shown left to right: Rev. Laymon, Mrs. Laymon, Rev. R. L. Costner, Associational  
Missionary for Raleigh Baptist Association, presenting keys to Rev. Laymon.



THIS PICTURE WAS MADE ABOUT 1950 OF A PERFECT ATTENDANCE GROUP



BULLETIN BOARD OF SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTER - THE 1940's



REV. ALLEN LAYMON AND DR. DOUGLAS M. BRANCH



THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1809. SOME OF OUR ORIGINAL CHURCH MEMBERS, THE SMITHS AND THE WILDERS, ATTENDED THIS CHURCH. THIS WAS THE FIRST CHURCH ORGANIZED IN THIS AREA.



THIS OAKY GROVE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH WAS THE SECOND CHURCH ORGANIZED IN OUR AREA IN 1837. THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MOVED TO KNIGHTDALE IN 1917 AND BECAME UNITED WITH THE KNIGHTDALE METHODIST CHURCH. SOME OF OUR FAMILY NAMES WERE MEMBERS HERE.



THIS IS A PICTURE OF SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH WHICH WAS ORGANIZED IN 1878. SOME FAMILY NAMES IN OUR COMMUNITY WERE ON THE SAMARIA CHURCH ROLL.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES WERE HELD FOR OUR NEW CHURCH BUILDING ON OCTOBER 16, 1977. Members shown above are left to right: Mr. Joe Broadwell; in the background can be seen Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Placid Knott; walking into the picture is Taylor Nethercutt; in front with the shovel is Mrs. R. L. Knott and back of her is Mr. R. L. Knott; looking on is Mrs. Lela Adams; to the extreme right can be seen Jim Strother, with arms folded, and J. W. O'Neal, Jr., with his hands in pockets.



REV. AND MRS. WILSON W. PADGETT  
Our Pastor in 1943



YOUNG WOMEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

(Photo made about 1938 or 1939)

At the top, left to right: Marjorie Adams, Dorothy House, Elaine Hopkins and Mavis Sauls. Bottom, left to right: Adelaide Hodge and Velma Whitley.



BEGINNERS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

(Photo made about 1953)

Can you identify Gail Clifton, Craig Hodge, David Sparks, Mike Adams, Ray Broadwell, Graham Broadwell, Jr.?















